

## REVIEW.

ART. XI.—*A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Children.* By D. FRANCIS CONDIE, M. D. &c., 8vo. pp. 651. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1844.

THE treatise of Underwood upon the diseases of children, is now looked upon as chiefly valuable for its practical precepts, respecting the management of some of the more common forms of disease, incidental to childhood and infancy. These precepts have long since been incorporated into the works of subsequent writers, who have filled up the meagre sketches of their predecessors with various ability and success. The late Professor Dewees has left us a work replete with original observations, sound criticisms upon the opinions of contemporary teachers, successful refutations of popular and professional errors, and excellent directions for the physical and moral management of children, and for the treatment of the diseases to which they are peculiarly subject. The high esteem in which his treatise has always been held, both at home and abroad, sufficiently denotes its value, and places it in a rank which has been enjoyed by no similar work. Messrs. Maunsell and Evanson, have produced "a concise practical work," which has become deservedly popular. Its very conciseness has caused it to be adopted as the ordinary hand-book of British physicians employed in the treatment of young patients. The chapters in it devoted to the general pathology and therapeutics of infantile diseases are full of instruction, and form perhaps, its distinguishing feature.

The late Dr. Eberle, and Dr. James Stewart, the translator of Billard, have also contributed to medical literature, treatises on the diseases of children. The recent issue of a new edition of the work of the latter, sufficiently attests its popularity, and refutes the objections of cavillers, who would have us believe, that the medical profession in this country is blind to the merit of native productions, and reserves all its respect and admiration for European works, often of very doubtful value.

Notwithstanding the great merits of the several works here enumerated, there was still wanting, in the medical literature of our language, a systematic treatise, which, avoiding controversial topics, and mere theoretical discussions, should furnish a full and complete history of every disease, incident to persons under the age of puberty; a description embracing all that has been discovered in various countries, up to the latest dates, concerning the etiology, symptomatology, pathology, morbid anatomy, treatment, &c. of each malady, together with the personal experience and particular views of the author upon these several subjects. This want has, we think, been supplied by Dr. Condie. Long and extensive experience, accurate observation, and diligent study, of English writers, not only, but also of the continental, and especially of the German authors, have fitted him, in a remarkable manner, for worthily accomplishing so difficult a

task. We feel assured that the results of his labour will only confirm the propriety of his having undertaken it. It cannot, of course, be denied that such a work as this will have but slight attractions for the lover of medical polemics, and even less for the quidnuncs of the profession by whom no truth is relished, save that which smacks of novelty. But for the practical physician who shall turn to its pages to learn all the phenomena which may be presented by the disease he is treating, and all the means to which he may resort for the cure of that disease, it will offer many and strong attractions, amongst which may be mentioned, completeness, clearness, judgment, and good sense. In it the vanity of the author never tempts the compiler into negligence; nor does the laborious care of the compiler weigh down and overlay the original vigour of the author; the two offices are made to strengthen and illustrate one another.

In works embracing so great a variety of subjects, some of them are usually found to be treated more attractively than others; the labour required for elucidating certain of them, and the peculiar bent of the author's tastes, naturally inclining him to lavish upon some a too partial care, and to content himself with scanty justice to others. Dr. Condie's work is scarcely chargeable with this fault; it is clearly seen, indeed, that he has written particular chapters *con amore*, but nowhere does he betray repugnance to the matter in hand. The pains-taking fidelity with which he has filled up the picture of each disease, so as to render it complete in itself, is equally conspicuous in the descriptions of subordinate importance, and in the history of maladies the most serious, or the most interesting. Perhaps fault may be found with a method like this, which makes repetition constantly necessary, and has no principle of unity running through it, no original theory at the outset, to which all subsequent particulars may be referred. We, however, esteem it fortunate, that no Procrustean bed has been constructed by our author, on which to stretch his images of disease; that he has moulded them after nature, and that if in their length or breadth they vary from the ideal model which speculative Doctors have set up, they will, at least, be found to tally with the forms which daily experience presents to the practical physician.

We shall not attempt a formal analysis of the work before us, but content ourselves with mentioning some of the points in which it appears to have improved on its predecessors, by a more minute investigation of old subjects, or by the addition of new matter.

An introductory chapter is devoted to the "management of children,"—to their physical and moral education. The necessity of pure air for infants is strongly enforced, and just blame cast upon the common practices, amongst families who should know better, of shutting up their children in ill ventilated apartments, often filled, too, with the noxious vapours engendered by domestic processes. We very strongly doubt whether the discovery of stone coal, which has been held up as one of the greatest causes of modern improvement, has not created one of the most fruitful sources of death and disease to which young children are exposed. The close air of a stove-warmed nursery, the hot and desiccated atmosphere of a furnace-heated chamber, feel like the breath of pestilence to one unaccustomed to these questionable refinements of luxury. Such a comment upon our methods of house-warming is frequently made by foreigners, and by our own countrymen, from regions where the blessing of a hickory fire is still enjoyed. We, however, quietly submit ourselves and our

children to be kiln-dried, and hail with delight each new invention of air-tight or other stove, which promises, in its advance towards perfection, soon to render ventilation impossible. Bitter experience will one day teach us that our children, raised like hot-house fruits, will like them, early decay, or grow into a precocious and insipid maturity.

The articles on cleanliness, clothing, and food, are full of excellent precepts, and good reasons for them; and of these we may again remark that the spirit of system in nowise blinds our author to the circumstances which must modify the application of any general rule to particular cases. Speaking of diet, he advises that "until the age of puberty, preparations of milk and the farinaceous vegetables should, in fact, constitute the principal nourishment." It would not be uninteresting to inquire how far the carnivorous propensities of our countrymen are concerned in determining that national leanness, sallowness, and morbid activity, which stamp an expression upon their faces and figures, not to be mistaken in whatever part of the world they may be encountered. It is quite certain that in no country do children partake of animal food in such large quantities as with us. It may be well worth the while of those who have an influence in the education of children, to consider how far the diseases of American youth may be traced to their over-indulgence in meats, and other stimulating viands. No doubt the rapidity with which children are allowed to despatch their meals increases the mischief arising from the use of improper food, and Dr. Condie very properly enjoins that they should not be hurried when eating, nor be required to finish "as soon as their parents." Let the parents, also, be enjoined not to eat faster than their children, and to set an example of moderation which will be better than a thousand homilies against greediness. A caution is given against permitting the young to be bedfellows of old or diseased persons, the author having seen cases of its pernicious influence. Great stress is laid upon the importance for children of exercise in the open air, for boys not only, but also for girls; and a just sentence is passed on the ridiculous custom of rearing females as tenderly as if they were destined to be angels, and not women. Let the bright sun shine, and the fresh wind blow, upon these fair plants, and we shall not so often be pained by seeing the pale and half expanded buds that now court our admiration, and demand a homage due only to the full and perfect flower. Similar remarks are applicable to the unseasonable culture of the mind. The views of Dr. Condie upon this subject are sound, clear, and pertinent, and commend themselves to all, who as parents, or as physicians, take an interest in the well being of the rising generation. The premature tasking of the mind with books, and abstract ideas, dooming a little child to the confinement of a school room, a child whose instinct—whose impulse—is to read in the great book of Nature, is treason to Providence—a crime against nature—which should be punished, like other unnatural crimes, with infamous penalties. Who does not know that a child, who at four years of age shall exhaust the patience of his teacher, and sour his own temper for months together, in a vain attempt to learn his alphabet, shall at eight years acquire the same knowledge in a day, or even an hour. And so of the acquisition of other arbitrary and artificial knowledge. And yet the folly of man has devised institutions where lisping infants may be taught geometry and astronomy forsooth! Verily the fanatical philanthropy of the present age could no further go in absurdity! But let those who have planned and fostered such establish-

ments beware, lest they be held to deserve the punishment of the fountain-poisoners of old; for their crime is even greater, they have tainted the very life-blood of the republic. Let the Bæotia of Pennsylvania rejoice! for happier is the lot of its children brought up in stupid but hardy ignorance, than that of the little ones in our "intellectual" metropolis, whose blanched faces, puny frames, and debile minds, are ghostlike witnesses against their oppressors. Perhaps too when our city youth, with minds exhausted in childhood, and bodies enervated by the luxurious habits to which precocious children are unusually prone, shall have acquired for their birth-place a reputation for mental mediocrity and moral debasement, there shall arise from the despised valleys of the interior of our state, as from the Bæotia of Greece, such men as Hesiod, Plutarch, and Epaminondas, to redeem the character of our common country, and assert the triumph of Nature over Art in the education of children. The health of the body is the very first condition and element of mental and moral soundness, and the experience of all ages has proved, that the great minds of every epoch have been those whose earliest efforts were unfettered by the horn-book, and unscared by the birch rod of the schoolmaster. "The poor village lad travelling on foot to the great metropolis," is the first page in the biography of almost every man who has illustrated the annals of his country, in letters or in art, in peace or in war.

The third chapter treats of the pathology of infancy and childhood. The great susceptibility of the skin and mucous membranes, at these periods of life, is fully illustrated, as well as the extreme facility with which disease is then transmitted from one tissue to another, and between the remotest organs; as from the skin to the lungs or the intestinal canal, and between the latter and the brain. In the space of six years, last before 1840, the deaths from diseases of the digestive and respiratory organs of children in Philadelphia, under the age of 15 years, formed one-fourth of the whole mortality of persons under that age.

The activity of the lymphatic system in infancy, is the cause of many diseases, such as inflammation of the cervical, axillary, inguinal and other glands, connected with the absorbents. Dr. Condie notices the "tendency" of parotitis "to produce, by a species of metastasis, inflammation of the testicle in the male, and of the mammæ in the female." We cite this passage for the purpose of noticing its want of precision, a fault with which our author's style is not often chargeable, but into which he has sometimes fallen, from the habit, no doubt, of using the phraseology commonly adopted by the profession. We object then to its being said that engorgement of the parotid "has a strong tendency" to produce inflammation of the mammæ, or of the testicle, because it is impossible to determine whether the latter, like the former, is not also the consequence of a previous morbid state, or whether the two inflammations really stand towards one another in the relations of cause and effect. The phrase "a species of metastasis," is likewise inexact; for since we have not even a general idea of the nature of metastasis, still less can we form a notion of any species of it. These remarks may seem hypercritical; but we maintain that it is the duty of a scientific writer, to be at least as precise as the structure of the language in which he writes will permit. We therefore, do not hesitate to point out such inaccuracies as the above, and the more readily, because they occur in a work which proves its author familiar with the powers of language.

Another example to the same purpose is the use made by our author of the word "irritation." According to him, it stands first in the chain of causes of nearly every disease arising from within the body, and of many produced from without. Thus we are told that convulsions are "produced by certain irritations of the brain, arising originally in that organ, or transmitted to it from some other part." Now we respectfully submit that no one would be a whit the wiser about the causes of convulsions after reading this account of them, than before. It may be well enough for system-builders to amuse themselves and their disciples with "words without knowledge," but we protest against our being flattered into a belief that we are gaining ideas, when we are only receiving empty sounds, from those whom we approach in order to be instructed, and not amused. The former of the cases quoted, Dr. Condie has restated in an unexceptionable form in his chapter on parotitis. The latter case is of rather frequent occurrence. We could have wished that instead of symptoms being referred to 'irritation' in an organ, the functional changes in that organ had simply been described; and that instead of our being told of irritations transmitted from one organ to another, we had merely been informed that there was such or such a sequence in the altered functions of the two organs. The whole truth might in this way have been told with sufficient conciseness, and nothing but the truth; no doubtful or unmeaning hypothesis would have interfered to obscure the clearness of our ideas, and cheat us into error.

But, returning from this digression to the chapter on the pathology of infantile diseases, we may remark that it is full and satisfactory. Some very interesting statistics are contained in it, relative to the influence of the seasons on the health of children. The semeiology of the diseases of infancy and childhood is treated at length. We are not aware that any similar work in our language contains even a partial notice of this important subject; and yet, every one admits that the interpretation of signs, in the diseases of infancy, demands a special study, and considerable experience. They are indeed, the symbols of a separate language, and can no more be understood by one who has not learned them, than can any other language by an uninstructed foreigner. The expression, the gestures, the sleep, the cry, the appearance of the various parts of the body, the secretions and excretions, are all peculiar in early life, and must often puzzle the inexperienced physician, who, being restricted to them for making his diagnosis, is yet quite unable to assign to each of them its real value, and therefore, incompetent to prescribe intelligently for his speechless patient. Dr. Condie has furnished an excellent guide in these embarrassing circumstances. The physician of childhood would do well to impress upon his memory, his descriptions of the normal and abnormal signs presented by young children.

Having devoted more than one hundred and twenty pages to the preliminary matter to which we have briefly alluded, Dr. Condie enters upon the proper subject of his work. First in order, he treats of diseases of the digestive organs, beginning with those of the mouth, and points out a distinction, not usually alluded to by practical writers, between the curdy exudation and aphthæ, or follicular inflammation, of the mucous tissue lining the mouth and pharynx. In the first stage, the inflammation of the follicles is shown by small, white, miliary tumours; in the second, by

superficial ulcers. In the article upon ulcerative stomatitis we should expect to find the diagnosis given between this affection and aphthæ; but it is wanting. And here we may remark that our author has not adopted the usual method of discussing a subject under several distinct heads, an omission which is particularly felt when we are in search of the diagnosis of a disease. The practice adopted by some of the highest authorities of placing the essential or characteristic symptoms of a disease in strong and direct contrast with those of the affections it most closely resembles, is not only a powerful help to the learner, but a material aid to the practitioner. Few persons are aware of the contrast that may be shown to exist between two apparently identical affections, until they are analysed and compared, symptom by symptom. In this way also the memory is assisted, for it easily retains a short epitome of the chief symptoms when freed from their unessential details.

Gangrene of the mouth is well described, and its prevalence in hospitals for children alluded to. In the children's asylum of Philadelphia, there were, out of two hundred and forty inmates, seventy affected with this disease at the same time. This was before the removal of that institution to its present commodious quarters, where we believe this troublesome malady has not very extensively appeared.

Our author has not seen much injury arise from indolent enlargement of the tonsils; he does not allude to their influence in producing deafness, as demonstrated by Dr. Mason Warren, of Boston.

An elaborate notice is given of the causes of indigestion, with an examination of the alleged deterioration of the nurse's milk by pregnancy, and the menstrual discharge. The influence of the former is stated to be hardly appreciable during the first three months of gestation, and the opinion of M. Raciborski confirmed, that the persistence of the catamenia during lactation does not materially affect the health of the nursing child. A caution is given to the inexperienced, that they be not deceived by the extreme prostration and indications of collapse that sometimes attend the most acute form of gastritis, and be tempted to exhibit stimulants with a view of restoring or supporting the strength. The warm-bath, repeated daily, will be much more to the purpose. In the acute, as well as in the chronic forms of this and other varieties of inflammation of the digestive canal, Dr. Condie recommends a combination of calomel, ipecacuanha, and extract of hyoscyamus. The latter article, indeed, in his prescriptions constantly takes the place of opium in the ordinary formulæ; and the above prescription variously modified, enters into the treatment of nearly every disease in which the "alterative" method is admitted. How far this frequent and somewhat indiscriminate use of calomel in the diseases of children may be justifiable, we shall not pretend to determine; the great experience of Dr. Condie is in support of it, and his conclusions are confirmed by those of Dr. Dewees. But we cannot withhold a solemn caution from those who, in seeking to follow these examples, are deficient in that tact and skill which alone can make the imitation safe. The knowledge we have of the changes produced by mercury in the blood, would be enough of itself to warn us of the danger of abusing this agent, even if we had not the voice of authority to caution us in using "one of the most powerful but dangerous medicines employed in infantile therapeutics." (*Evanson.*)

A short account of the congenital malformations of the intestinal tube,

introduces a history of its various diseases; these are discussed at considerable length, and in all their details, Dr. Condie describes, after the late Dr. Parrish, a variety of enteralgia accompanied by convulsions of an epileptic form. The cadaveric appearances in the only fatal case which was examined after death, consisted in irregular contractions of the bowels, and the absence of dark coloured bile in the gall-bladder. The brain was not examined. Dr. Condie explains the symptoms by saying that they were "evidently the result of a neuropathic condition of the intestines, combined with some degree of cerebral irritation." Would it not have been safer for Dr. C. to give no explanation at all, since all that we know of the case is that the child had pain in his belly, and irregular contractions of the muscles of animal, and probably of some of those of organic life? Our whole idea of neuropathy is pain; and if Dr. C. is able to form any conception of cerebral irritation, he is more fortunate than ourselves. This form of disease is nevertheless a most interesting one, and deserves the closest investigation, both as regards its symptoms, and the state of the nervous centres after death.

In the treatment of diarrhœa, Dr. Condie "believes" that as "in very few instances," the disorder is kept up by the presence of irritating matters in the bowels, the use of active purgatives is not only unnecessary, but absolutely injurious. Speaking of the treatment of mucous diarrhœa, he remarks that "the common practice of administering frequent doses of castor-oil, is one calculated to increase the irritation of the intestines." If it be true that the presence of undigested food and other improper substances in the bowels, are not often the cause of diarrhœa, the rest of the precept should follow of course. Now, although we yield to none in respecting our author's belief, considered as an opinion, yet the opposite belief is held by high authorities, and should be refuted, if erroneous, not by counter opinions, but by facts. Meanwhile, there can be no doubt whatever that the abuse of purgatives in the treatment of diarrhœa is a serious evil, both medical and domestic, and that in very many cases the regulation of the patient's diet will, in itself, suffice to arrest the disease. Chronic diarrhœa without febrile excitement is often prolonged by a persistence in the use of farinaceous and mucilaginous mixtures; this fact is noticed by our author, who believes that in such cases we may employ chicken-water, or other weak broths with the happiest effects.

The article on "summer complaint," we regard as altogether the best that has been written upon this scourge of our climate. This malady appears to be indigenous to the middle, and certain of the western and southern states, and to prevail in some of them from May to November, generally attacking infants between the ages of four, and twenty months. The mortality in Philadelphia from this disease, during fifteen years, from 1825 to 1839, was almost ten per cent. of that of all children under five years of age, and about four and a half per cent. of the entire mortality of the city. With the symptoms of this disease most of our readers are doubtless acquainted. Dr. Condie has described them with singular accuracy. The morbid appearances discovered after death are various. If the patient die early in the attack, there is commonly found only an unusual paleness of the intestinal mucous membrane, with congestion of the liver. At a later period of the disease, there are red points and patches more or less disseminated over the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels; softening of this membrane, contraction of the intestines, enlarge-

ment or ulceration of the muciparous follicles, and enlargement and congestion of the liver. The chief hope of cure is in the removal of the patient from the close, hot, and impure atmosphere of the town; this will often suffice of itself in the earlier stages of the disease, and is almost essential at any period of it.

The proper medical treatment recommended by Dr. Condie, does not differ from that commonly pursued by our best practitioners. He directs that attention should be paid to the condition of the gums, that the diarrhœa should be controlled in its acute stage, by the warm bath, cool mucilaginous drinks, and a combination of chalk, calomel, and acetate of lead. This last he has found, when given in solution, very successful in arresting the vomiting. Leeches to the epigastrium, and warm fomentations are advised when there are signs of inflammation within the abdomen; and leeches to the temples, and blisters behind the ears, when the brain becomes involved. In its chronic form, revulsives, anodynes, and vegetable astringents, with the persesquinitrate of iron, avail most to check the diarrhœa. An excellent form of the salt of iron just mentioned, is the syrup, which has the advantage of not easily undergoing spontaneous decomposition.

Several instances of polypus of the rectum have fallen under the notice of our author, and he has not found the difficulty experienced by other observers of recognizing their true nature. In one of the cases seen by him, the tumour came away spontaneously, and without much hæmorrhage. In the others the tumours were easily removed by ligature, and without any untoward symptom. We are glad to find that Dr. Condie takes the only ground defensible by a scientific physician, in regard to intestinal worms. He shows that all the varieties of worms may be present in the bowels without impairing the health of the patient; and that, on the other hand, many persons have been affected with every symptom attributed to these parasites, without their evacuations during life, or their intestines after death offering the least trace of the supposed offenders. Consistently with these views, our author directs that where the symptoms said to be produced by worms are apparent, we should, in the first place, ascertain whether the worms exist; and in the second, whether the symptoms are fairly chargeable to them. A treatment, he says, adapted to restore the functions of the alimentary canal, will generally be found successful, without a resort to those medicines which strictly belong to the class of anthelmintics. When these latter are clearly indicated, Dr. Condie recommends, as the best of them, the oil of turpentine, which he thinks may be given with perfect safety to the youngest child in whom worms occur.

Inflammation of the small intestines (enteritis), dysentery, peritonitis, and remittent fever, are discussed very elaborately by our author. The last of these he considers to be no more than symptomatic of enteritis, or of entero-colitis, and only enters upon its history in deference to the usage of systematic writers on infantile diseases. For our own parts we know that several of the diseases above mentioned, are very often difficult to distinguish from one another in practice; and that when we have consulted books for enlightenment, it has only been to make our confusion worse confounded. In adults there are clearly three forms of disease, perfectly distinct from, yet resembling one another; viz. remittent ("miasmatic") fever, typhoid fever, and enteritis. But the remittent fever of

children is a totally different disease from that of adults, and its cause is referred to by most writers, as residing in some affection of the intestinal canal, it being, as Dr. Condie tells us, an enteritis. None of our writers, in the English language, say any thing of infantile typhoid fever. We must therefore look to cases of enteritis as presenting the type of these cognate affections. Having done so in the work before us, we find that in many of them, the symptoms are those peculiar to typhoid fever in the adult, that the cadaveric lesions are often identical with those of typhoid fever in the adult; in a word, that if in adults enteritis and typhoid fever are two diseases, they are also distinct in children. If this be true, the history of intestinal inflammations in children and infants must be written anew. The Parisian observers have led the way in this investigation, as they did in elucidating the pathology of continued fever. We hope that Dr. Condie will, in his second edition, give us the results of his own inquiries upon this subject. They cannot fail to remove much of its obscurity.

An account of asphyxia in new-born infants prefaces the section on diseases of the respiratory organs. Its known causes are fully detailed, and two varieties of it noticed, which appear to depend, respectively, on exhaustion and congestion. When the latter is evidently the cause, depletion from the umbilical cord, and active friction of the skin will usually overcome it. But, when the former appears to be operative, all expedients adapted to excite the action of the respiratory muscles, and secondarily that of the heart, should be resorted to. One of those most relied upon by our author, is that of spiriting forcibly upon the child a portion of spirituous liquor, previously held for a minute or two in the mouth. The warm bath is also commended, but not as it is frequently employed. If its influence does not speedily make itself felt, no great benefit can be derived from it. "A prolonged continuance in the bath would, by raising the temperature of the infant, render it less capable of enduring the state of asphyxia, and would also prevent the access of the atmospheric air to the surface of the body, which always exerts a very powerful vivifying influence." Affusion, with water at a temperature of about 60°, followed by strong friction to the chest, has sometimes succeeded. But inflation of the lungs is, after all, the most certain in its results, when, as Dr. Condie directs, it is early, judiciously, and perseveringly practised. The operator must not be discouraged by an apparent want of success, after the labour of half an hour or even an hour; for it has been necessary to persist in these humane efforts for two hours and a half, before respiration was fully established. Dr. Condie prefers using the mouth, without the assistance of a tracheal tube.

Coryza, bronchitis, and pneumonia, are very thoroughly discussed. The last, especially, receives full justice at our author's hands, for he has evidently gleaned every thing of value from the great number of essays which have been written upon infantile pneumonia during the last few years. In the treatment of this disease, as in that of the acute stage of all inflammatory diseases where depletion is called for, Dr. Condie discourages venesection, if the child be under three years old, preferring to employ leeches and cups for younger children. We are disposed to think him prudent in this limitation, and that cautious practitioners will applaud his prudence. Young physicians, like young soldiers, are apt to be fond of the glitter of steel, and to fancy that all knots, like the Gordian, are to

be untied by cutting them. It is well for the veteran to caution his rash brethren at their outset in the professional career, and to assure them that as more fortresses have capitulated to a blockade than have been carried by the sword, so also more inflammations have been cured by starvation and patience, than were ever "jugulated" by the lancet.

Dr. Condie has given us a picture of the symptoms of *croup*, to which little could be added, and from which nothing could be taken away without serious detriment to its correctness. The description is too long for quotation here, but is that of unequivocal pseudo-membranous laryngitis. We join with our author in doubting the correctness of the diagnosis in a class of cases reported to have been sudden in their invasion, and equally so in their cure; and of certain others where the disease is said to have assumed a chronic form, and to have lasted for several weeks. There is often much difficulty in distinguishing stridulous laryngitis and simple tracheitis from croup, nor do we believe that there is any possibility of determining with certainty the existence of the latter disease during the life of the patient, without the expectoration of false-membrane from the larynx. For this reason we do not feel bound to admit the assertions quoted by Dr. Condie, that the disease may occur "seven, and even nine times, in the same individual." M. Valleix (in his "*Guide du Médecin Practicien*") states that since the diagnosis between true and stridulous croup has been well understood, he has not found a single case reported of the recurrence of the former disease in the same individual. Dr. Condie is of opinion, that the disease usually commences in the bronchial tubes, especially in those cases in which the invasion is gradual; and that when the attack is sudden the exudation is confined to the larynx. He regards the cases where croup has been preceded by pseudo-membranous angina, as secondary, and as "occurring always in the course of some other affections." The author just now quoted, has reached an opposite conclusion. He says, "it is now admitted, and with reason, that these diseases (measles, scarlatina, pulmonary catarrh, &c.) have no other relation to croup than that of favouring its development by the peculiar condition in which they place the patient, and that they cannot be regarded as prodromes, because they precede the new disease in a few cases only. But the coryza and sore-throat which most frequently mark the commencement of the disease, are not prodromes, but symptoms of croup, because they persist, and even increase, during the progress of the disease." To this it may be added, that in a series of 120 cases examined by M. Hussenot, and in which the extent of the false membrane was accurately noted, there were only 42 in which this membrane extended into the bronchial tubes. We may therefore, conclude, in general, that the course of the disease is from above downwards. Whether, however, we regard the angina or the catarrh, as initial symptoms, or as exciting or predisposing causes of croup, the same practical result is deducible, viz., that whenever a croupal cough succeeds to bronchitis or sore-throat, we should act as if the worst might be expected, and not relax our exertions until the patient is safe, or his restoration hopeless. It is in treating a disease like this, where we have little time to reflect, and still less to consult authorities, that we feel the necessity of having clear notions regarding it, and a certainty that we are not confounding it with some similar but really different affection. We have already expressed our regret, that Dr. Condie has dwelt so lightly upon the comparative diagnosis of the diseases he treats of; this

omission is especially to be lamented in the history of croup. We subjoin an example of such a comparison, borrowed partly from M. Valleix, and partly from MM. Rilliet and Barthez.

## LARYNGEA STRIDULA.

1. Symptoms of invasion slight; slight catarrh; cough a little hoarse; *throat healthy*; sometimes no prodromes.
2. Attack sudden; usually at night.
3. Between the paroxysms the child seems well, *the fever disappears or declines*; the voice is rarely extinct.
4. Expectoration of *mucus*.
5. The paroxysms *decrease* in violence.

## CROUP.

1. Fever of variable intensity; *membranous angina*; slight hoarseness.
2. Gradual increase of hoarseness; cough hoarse.
3. The fever *does not remit*; the cough hollow and feeble; the voice faint or extinct.
4. Expectoration of *false membranes*, sometimes.
5. Dyspnoea *increases*; the croupal sound between the paroxysms; the voice and cough extinct.

The operation of tracheotomy is dismissed by our author in a few words. He enumerates the supporters and opposers of this operation, and without expressing any opinion upon its merits, presents the total results of its performance in 186 cases. Of these it appears that 39 recovered. M. Trousseau has recently stated the results of the operation performed by himself, or by others according to his method, from which it appears that 39 out of 150 recovered, a larger proportion than that given by Dr. Condie.

A very interesting discussion of the causes of stridulous croup is given by our author, who adopts the opinion that when arising previous to dentition, it is attributable to disorder of the digestive functions or to impure air, and when during, or subsequent to this epoch, it is almost invariably symptomatic of cerebral disease. In the treatment of pertussis, of which Dr. Condie furnishes a very elaborate history, he has used the much vaunted belladonna, but without any very constant success. He prefers in this instance, as in most others where a narcotic is indicated, the extract of hyoscyamus combined with ipecacuanha. High authorities have been cited in favour of the use of carbonate of iron, in this disease, as a specific. Dr. Lombard is quoted by our author in these words: "The beneficial effects resulting from the use of the sub-carbonate of iron are easily explained, by its *anti-periodic* and *anti-neuralgic* properties, and it shows *a posteriori*, how much the whooping-cough resembles a true *neuralgic*, or at all events, a *true nervous* disease." This exquisite specimen of science and logic is worthy of the author of the "Letter upon Typhoid Fever."

The third section of the work before us opens with an account of a disease but recently investigated. It now appears that simple hypertrophy of the brain is a very common occurrence in infancy, and that it is often the cause of "convulsions, epileptic attacks, idiocy, and active inflammation of the organ, terminating in softening and apoplexy." It is usually congenital, augments very slowly, and when its increase is not more rapid than that of the capacity of the cranium, may not give rise to any evident symptoms. When, however, it is compressed by its bony case, there is generally observed a "singular projection of the parietal protuberances, with obtuseness of the intellect, irritability of temper, giddiness, habitual head-

ache, with severe exacerbations, and an inordinate appetite." If the fontanelles are open, a sensation of firmness is communicated to the finger when pressure is made upon them. In the more advanced cases, the various phenomena of paralysis and muscular spasm may be added to those already detailed; the patient may be seized with delirium, fall into coma, and die. The diagnosis of this disease from hydrocephalus is very difficult. It has been most frequently observed in children of a lymphatic temperament, or in those affected with rickets. Dr. Condie suggests no other plan of treatment for this affection than what might be inferred from established principles of therapeutics.

"Apoplexy and paralysis," says our author, "are of much more frequent occurrence during infancy and childhood, than is generally supposed. We have met with them at every age, from one or two days subsequent to birth, up to the period of puberty." Many deaths attributed to convulsions and hydrocephalus are, no doubt, caused by apoplexy. Effusion of blood or serum is much more rarely found after death than in adults, the ordinary lesion being extensive hyperemia. Hence the curability of paralysis in children. Another form of apoplexy coming on gradually, and accompanied by symptoms of hydrocephalus, has been recently described. In this, the lesion discovered after death consists in an effusion of blood and serum, with fibrine of various degrees of firmness, inclosed in a cyst, and situated beneath the arachnoid, usually upon the upper surface of the hemispheres.

More than two hundred children die annually from convulsions in Philadelphia. Dr. Condie has therefore had ample occasions for studying this alarming disease, and it is plain that he has made good use of his opportunities. The history he has given us of the varieties, causes, and treatment of convulsions, we regard as one of the most valuable portions of his treatise, and adapted to satisfy all reasonable inquiries on the subject. It contains a notice of the salaam convulsion, a curious affection, which seems to bear a strong resemblance to certain varieties of chorea; and also an account of the tonic muscular contractions described by Jadelot and Guersent.

Acute, and subacute, or tubercular meningitis, are treated of very fully, and with ample reference to every thing that has been written upon them to the latest date. We can do no more than allude to it. Dr. Condie mentions that chronic hydrocephalus is not a very frequent disease in Philadelphia. He has never seen a case, either congenital, or developed subsequent to birth. Alluding to the operation of puncturing the brain for this disease, he remarks that even in the most suitable cases, "the operation has been found unsuccessful in numerous instances, and that it has been pronounced, by high authority, as one, in all cases, at once cruel and useless."

An interesting article on chorea follows, and concludes the catalogue of nervous diseases. Our author proposes no specific for its cure, but seems to prefer a tonic treatment, not only by the use of tonic medicines properly so called, but also by such hygienic measures as may serve to invigorate the system. We venture to add our testimony to that of the gentlemen quoted by Dr. Condie, in favour of the efficacy of the *cimicifuga* in chorea. In three or four cases occurring in girls between the ages of ten and fifteen, it seemed to effect a cure. In an adult case of several years standing it

had no perceptible influence, although it was diligently administered for several months.

The essay on scarlatina is altogether one of the best in the work; it leaves no part of the history of this formidable disease without the most thorough examination, and points out with great discretion the several methods of treatment which its various and complicated forms may demand. Of the prophylactic powers of belladonna in scarlatina, Dr. Condie gives the following opinion.

"We have, in repeated instances, tested the prophylactic powers of belladonna, but although redness and dryness of the throat, and a diffuse scarlet efflorescence were produced in the majority of cases, we never found it, in any, to produce the slightest effect in mitigating the character or preventing the occurrence of scarlatina. The experiments were made during the prevalence of the disease, and in numerous instances the subjects of them were attacked. In one case the efflorescence was kept up by the use of the belladonna, for forty-eight hours; in a week afterwards this individual took the disease, in its most violent form, and died on the fourth day."

The question of the protective power of vaccination is very thoroughly discussed by Dr. Condie. Having collated all the leading facts bearing upon this question, especially those recorded during the last ten years, he is of opinion that "in every instance in which the system can be fully infected with the vaccine disease, it affords a protection against the occurrence of small-pox, which is unimpaired by the lapse of time." The details of all the experiments recently made in Europe, respecting this interesting and important subject, are presented by our author in five tabular statements. From these it appears, that about 39 per cent. of all re-vaccinations took effect; and that about 13 per cent. of all second re-vaccinations were successful. Our author infers from these facts the importance of re-vaccination for all persons likely to be exposed to the variolous infection, not for fear that the primary vaccination has lost its power by time, but "as a test whether the susceptibility of the individuals to variolous disease has been fully extinguished." The Prussian army, it is stated, "now enjoys an almost entire immunity from the contagion of small-pox, notwithstanding it has been repeatedly subjected to its influence." Dr. Condie, in common with American practitioners generally, gives a preference to the dry crust or scab, over the recent lymph, for the purposes of vaccination, because it is equally efficacious, and much more manageable. His method of vaccination differs from that ordinarily employed. He makes several parallel and crucial incisions through the cuticle only, and then smears over them a portion of the vaccine crust dissolved in cool water.

All the exanthemata are, in due course, fully described by our author, but we have not time to dwell upon them here. The cutaneous eruptions have devoted to them more than seventy pages of the work before us. So enlarged a consideration of these affections may seem out of proportion, in a work professing to treat only of the diseases of children. But from a very cursory examination of this part of the treatise, we are led to believe that the modifications produced by childhood in the forms of skin-diseases, and in the treatment they require, will be found sufficiently great to warrant the extended notice they here receive. Amongst them, however, we find by a sort of *error loci*, the *morbus cæruleus*. No explanation is

given of classing an organic disease of the heart with diseases of the skin, especially when there is a section set apart for congenital malformations, and other subjects not easily arranged under any of the preceding heads. A great array of authorities is brought forward to elucidate the causes of cyanosis, and the conclusion that our author draws from a study of them is this, viz. that directly or indirectly, the blueness of the skin in this disease is due entirely to the admixture of arterial and venous blood, or to the substitution of the latter for the former. We have the assurance of a gentleman who has recently been examining all the records of the disease accessible to him in this city, that such a conclusion is not warranted even by the very series of observations upon which it is confidently rested, by some of the most authoritative writers.

Sections V., VI., and VII., are devoted, respectively, to the study of scrofulous and tuberculous disease; diseases of the urinary organs; and "congenital affections, and accidents occurring most generally, within the month." Amongst those included in the last division are spina-bifida, club-foot, hare-lip, herniæ, &c. It is almost superfluous to say that all of these maladies are treated of in the most satisfactory manner. They have never before been so completely discussed, in any treatise upon the diseases of children, in our language.

Having received an early copy of the work, we hasten to lay some account of it before the readers of this journal. We regret, however, that the short period allowed for preparing this notice has prevented our rendering to Dr. Condie that full measure of justice, which the importance of his treatise demands, and that minute examination of all its points, which our own interest in the subject would prompt, and which we feel assured, would amply repay the curiosity of our readers. Dr. Condie, from the very labour he has evidently bestowed upon this book, is entitled to our respect as an indefatigable and conscientious student; but if we consider the results of his labour, we cannot but admit his claim to a place in the very first rank of eminent writers on the practice of medicine.

Regarding his treatise as a whole, it is more complete and accurate in its descriptions, while it is more copious and more judicious in its therapeutical precepts, than any of its predecessors; and we feel persuaded that the American medical profession will very soon regard it, not only as a very good, but as *the very best* "Practical treatise on the diseases of children."

A. S.